

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 SP-02 /048 W

----- 050070

R 241012Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4877

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL 4977

FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE, S/NM

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, LA

SUBJ: FISCAL YEAR 1977 NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PLANS

REF: STATE 139804

1. GIVEN TENUOUS STATE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN
USG AND LAO PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION
(PGNU), TERMINATION OF USAID MISSION, THE SUSPENSION
OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OPERATIONS IN LAOS, AND
THE STATE OF UPHEAVAL IN WHICH THE COUNTRY FINDS ITSELF,
THIS MISSION WILL NOT SUBMIT RESPONSE TO REFTEL BECAUSE
IT WOULD BE MEANINGLESS.

2. THE SITUATION PREVAILING HERE PRECLUDES ANY INITIATIVE
ON OUR PART IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD AS IN MANY OTHERS
AT THIS TIME. FOR THE MOMENT OUR INTENTION IS TO
SUPPORT QUIETLY THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG
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ABUSE CONTROL (UNFDAC) EFFORTS, ALLOWING UNFDAC TO

TAKE INTIATIVE WITH REGARD TO ANY NARCOTICS
CONTROL PROJECTS IN WHICH THE PGNU MAY BE INTERESTED
OR WHICH IT WOULD BE WILLING TO TOLERATE.

3. AS WASHINGTON IS WELL AWARE, DURING PERIOD OF
FOUR YEARS LAOS HAS GONE FROM A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF
NARCOTICS TO U.S. TROOPS IN VIETNAM TO A PRODUCER
THAT JUST MEETS DEMAND OF LOCAL ADDICTS FOR OPIUM.
INDEED, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, LAOS IS NOW A
NET IMPORTER OF OPIUM. WE MUST CREDIT THE EFFORTS
OF THE VARIOUS AGENCIES (DEA, CUSTOMS, USAID, ETC.)
THAT HAVE WORKED HERE IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD FOR MUCH
OF THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE.

4. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE LAO
PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) -- AS THE DOMINANT SOCIAL, ECONOMIC
AND POLITICAL FORCE IN LAOS -- WILL NOT PERMIT
RAMPANT TRAFFICKING OR CONSUMPTION OF NARCOTICS.
EVERYTHING IN LAOS WILL SOON BE CLOSELY CONTROLLED.
THUS, LPF ASSUMPTION OF POLITICAL CONTROL IN LAOS MAY
HELP, RATHER THAN HINDER, THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT
DRUG TRAFFIC. WE HOPE THAT EVENTUALLY THE PGNU WILL
PERMIT PRIODIC VISITS BY DEA AGENTS TO AT LEAST
VIENTIANE, BUT THAT TIME MAY BE MANY MONTHS OFF.

5. THIS MISSION WILL NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE TO CONSIDER
NARCOTICS CONTROL ONE OF OUR MAJOR INTERESTS IN LAOS
AND WILL REMAIN ALIVE TO ANY POSSIBILITY OF WORKING
WITH PGNU IN THIS FIELD.

CHAPMAN

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